



☒ **PASS A NO-NEW-TAXES BUDGET THAT PROTECTS VULNERABLE CITIZENS**

GOALS:

- Continue the Priorities of Government (POG) process and support a budget that lives within our means, doesn't raise taxes and maintains core services that protect vulnerable citizens.
- Require government programs be reviewed regularly for efficiency and effectiveness.
- Approve government liability reform that limits attorneys' fees so victims get more of the money they deserve, shifts to several liability so taxpayers only pay a fair share of the damages and limits awards of greater than \$1 million without legislative approval.

FACTS:

- Washington's revenues are expected to increase by nearly 7 percent in this budget cycle, yet Democrats are already considering a tax increase to fund an additional increase in spending.
- The Legislature solved a \$2.8 B problem in 03-05 by prioritizing government spending. The same discipline can be used again this year to solve this problem without raising taxes.
- State agencies will pay \$150 million this biennium into the self insurance liability program, which pays tort claims against the state and related defense costs. That's enough to pay for 15,000 higher ed slots or a \$100 tax cut for every family in Washington.

☒ **CREATE NEW JOBS BY MAKING IT EASIER TO DO BUSINESS IN WASHINGTON**

GOALS:

- Exempt all small businesses from B&O tax for a year and new small businesses for two years.
- Double the small business B&O tax credit.
- Eliminate the registration burden for businesses not currently required to pay B&O taxes.
- Increase government accountability by requiring the governor to sign all major new rules, limiting agency rule-making to specific grants of legislative authority and delaying major rules until after a legislative session.
- Pass comprehensive workers' compensation reform.

FACTS:

- The tax burden in Washington falls particularly hard on small business owners. Almost 50 percent of all taxes are paid by businesses, the highest percentage of any western state.
- Total state regulation has expanded to fill 32 phonebook-sized volumes, forming a stack of paper more than five feet high. Employers spend valuable time and money trying to comply with everything – and that means less time and money for creating jobs.
- Washington's worker's compensation system pays one of the highest levels of benefits in the country and it is forcing employers cut jobs.

☒ **CONTROL THE COST OF HEALTH INSURANCE AND PROTECT PATIENT CHOICES**

GOALS:

- Allow insurers to provide affordable packages, tailored to meet the needs of employers, employees & their families.
- Allow state employees more choice and control by directing the Public Employees Benefits Board to allow them to invest in Health Savings Accounts.

FACTS:

- Nationally, health care spending grew almost 8 percent in 2003. It now makes up about 15 percent of the national economy.
- The number of employers who offer health insurance has dropped from 65 percent in 1993 to just 47 percent today.

☒ **PROTECT CITIZENS' RIGHTS FOR A FAIR ELECTION**

GOAL:

- Pass comprehensive election reforms to deal with provisional ballots, illegal votes, votes without voters, disenfranchised military voters and partisan elections officers.

FACT:

- In the aftermath of the 2004 elections, reports are surfacing about illegal votes, votes without voters and poor elections systems.